United Nations

Daily Highlights

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Yugoslav interpreter killed and Danish convoy leader seriously injured yesterday in shelling attack on humanitarian convoy after delivery of food, medicines and blankets to central Bosnia, according to UNHCR.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslav Conference brief members of the Security Council on peace talks scheduled to resume shortly at Headquarters.

+ Secretary-General urges Government and political leaders in Zaire to initiate dialogue to resolve differences.

+ Romania asks Security Council to take urgent measures to help it overcome economic difficulties as result of sanctions against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

+ Bosnia and Herzegovina asks for additional investigation into assassination of Bosnian Deputy Prime Minister by independent body.

+ United Nations spokesman confirms recent explosion in United Nations convoy truck on Turkish side of border with Iraq; no injuries reported.

+ Committee against Apartheid is told by its Chairman that "apartheid must be dead and buried by the end of the year".

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A Bosnian interpreter was killed and a Danish convoy leader seriously injured yesterday in a shelling attack on a humanitarian convoy returning to Metkovic after delivering supplies of food, medicines and blankets to central Bosnia, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

According to a press release issued by the Agency in Geneva yesterday, High Commissioner Sadako Ogata strongly condemned the attack and said that only five days ago she was given assurances by the leaders of all three Bosnian warring parties that they would respect the humanitarian nature of relief convoys and guarantee them safe passage. She said she was holding the

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leaders personally responsible for the safety of the UNHCR humanitarian convoys and she had demanded that a full investigation be conducted to determine the circumstances of the attacks.

All three leaders promised Mrs. Ogata that the "constant harassment" of UNHCR convoys would be immediately stopped. the release added.

Mrs. Ogata was suspending all operations on the Mostar road and ordering all trucks to return to their bases until she received a full explanation of the incident.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on Former Yugoslavia, Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen, briefed the five Permanent Members of the Security Council yesterday evening on the peace talks which are to resume at Headquarters shortly, according to their spokesman, Fred Eckhard. This morning, the two Co-Chairmen met with the ten non-permanent members of the Council.

They met this afternoon with representatives of the Organization of the Islamic Conference Contact Group, which includes Iran, Egypt, Pakistan, Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Eckhard said the peace talks would probably be held throughout the weekend.

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Gravely concerned at the political unrest and civil strife prevailing in Zaire, which had resulted in the death of hundreds of people, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged the Government and the leaders of all local political parties involved to initiate dialogue to resolve their differences peacefully.

The Secretary-General's call for peace was made in a statement yesterday, in which he also stressed that only through negotiation and the expeditious democratization of the political process could further bloodshed be avoided and peace restored in Zaire.

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Bosnia and Herzegovina has asked the Security Council to authorize an additional investigation headed by an independent body, in cooperation with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and the Bosnian Government, into the assassination of its Deputy Prime Minister, Hakija Turajlic, by Serbian forces last month.

In a letter to the President of the Security Council, dated 1 february, the Bosnian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, also asked the Secretary-General to submit a report regarding the "never

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implemented" UNPROFOR control on the corridor linking Sarajevo with its airport and the steps currently undertaken by the Force to implement such controls.

Mr. Sacirbey pointed out that the Special Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Secretary-General to undertake a full investigation into the assassination, did not question a number of eyewitnesses to the incident. The Commission "apparently did not attempt to interview either the suspected assassin, whose identity it failed to mention", or any of the Serbian officers or soldiers manning the roadblock at the time of the assassination, the Bosnian Ambassador said.
Document S/25204

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Romania has requested that consultations with the Security Council be held with the view of taking urgent measures for overcoming the specific economic difficulties suffered by that country as a result of sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugolaslavia (Serbia and Montenegro).

In a memorandum, the Romanian Government said that by the end of 1992, direct and indirect losses and damages to the Romanian economy, incurred since the beginning of the sanctions, were estimated at approximately $7 billion. The Government asked for financial and technical assistance from the international community, in particular the industrialized countries, which would compensate for the losses suffered.

The memorandum was submitted by the Chargé d'affaires of Romania to the United Nations, Valeriu Florean, in a letter to the Secretary-General, dated 29 January.
Document S/25207

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A United Nations spokesman confirmed today that a explosion had occurred recently in one of the United Nations convoy trucks on the Turkish side of the border with Iraq, but no injuries were reported.

The spokesman described the truck as "a fuel tanker" which was returning from Iraq and was empty at the time of the incident. The driver had abandoned the tanker at a check point under orders from the Iraqi police. According to preliminary findings, an explosive device had been placed in the lock-box of the tanker.

An investigation into the incident was underway, the spokesman added.

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The Chairman of the Committee against Apartheid, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), told a meeting of the Committee yesterday that "apartheid must be dead and buried by the end of the year".

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After his re-election as Chairman of the Committee, Mr. Gambari said that taking into consideration the latest developments in South Africa, it might not be unrealistic to hope that by 1994, agreements would have been reached on transitional arrangements to be in place for elections of a constituent assembly and the establishment of an interim government of national unity.

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